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GEOGRAPHICAL LITERATURE AND MAPS

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BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTICES

The Story of the Great Lakes. By Edward Channing and Marion Florence Lansing. ix and 398 pp., Maps and Illustrations. The Macmillan Company, New York, 1909. \$1.50.

This account is divided into three parts, each covering a stage in the development of the country about the Great Lakes. Part I contains the story of the discovery and exploration of the lakes. It is a story that fascinates the reader because of the wonderful men who penetrated into these Indian strongholds. There is the story of Champlain's trip to the Huron villages and his unsuccessful attempt to aid this Indian tribe in warfare against its Iroquois enemy. There arises in one a reverence for Father Jean Brebeuf, founder of the Jesuit Mission among the Hurons; and the account of the careful and well-conducted life the priests led among the savages and of their martyrdom when finally the Huron nation was destroyed by the Iroquois reads like a romance. Then follow in quick succession, the story of the pageant of Saint Lusson, agent of Louis XIV at Sault Ste. Marie, with regalia and ceremony intended to impress the savage guests, the history of the voyage of La Salle in his wonderful ship, the *Griffon*, and a description of the weak and unfortunate attempt of La Barre to frighten the chief of the Iroquois.

Part II is the story of the occupation and the contest for the possession of the Lake country. The account opens with the voyage of Cadillac and the founding of Detroit and this is followed by the history of the battle of Niagara and the gaining of Canada by the English. The attempt of Pontiac to conquer Detroit by conspiracy and his subsequent defeat and Wayne's campaign against the Indians are rehearsed, and the narrative continues through the war of 1812 to the completion of the Black Hawk war, when the foundations of the Lake states were laid.

Part III is entitled "Occupation and Development." The transformation of the old Iroquois trail from Albany to Lake Erie through the various stages of pathway, turnpike to railroad and canal lines is told in an attractive way. The impressions and adventures of early travellers are portrayed to make the story vivid. A chapter on "Lincoln and Douglas in Chicago" is introduced here to show, seemingly, how just prior to the Civil War, a lake state, Illinois, had become a "political storm centre to which the eyes of the whole people were turned," but the account breaks the continuity of the story and diverts the interest from the theme. On the industrial side, a description of three great industries, the fur trade, lumbering and copper mining, and the story of the shipping on the Lakes are given, but the space allotted to these is so limited that only the merest skeleton of facts is possible and the chapters merely suggest the extent of the development that has been made. The book is illustrated with a few pictures,

mostly from old prints, and contains a bibliography. It may be highly recommended as a background for the study of this region. The salient points of the story of the Lakes are emphasized, but "no minute and exhaustive chronicle has been attempted."

ROBERT MARSHALL BROWN.

England and the English from an American Point of View.

By Price Collier. 434 pp. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1909. \$1.50.

Mr. Collier has a style which pleases; it is what one may call very readable, though his writing at times has a vivacity which sets the reader questioning whether the plain facts of the case are not over seasoned with mere style. He has, as it appears, lived with the English, has seen and studied them when they have been on guard and off guard. He has the fashion of writing with a convincing air, and if you yourself have seen the English in their island home and have received impressions which you could not well classify and arrange, you will be helped by Mr. Collier's lucid analysis.

His "First Impressions" are, indeed, strikingly presented; but, perhaps, like most writers who undertake the portrayal of the manners and customs—all that, indeed, goes to make up the life of a people other than the writer's own—he sees much that goes to make up what we call national traits with eyes and judgment too serious. He is not one of them, and is often looking "at them rather than with them."

As a "Land of Compromises," Mr. Collier finds here much to criticise in state, church and social life; but he admits that "it is difficult with such people to discover what are their ideals, what are their real likes and dislikes."

Though writing a chapter on the topic "Are the English dull," he answers this, as a question, with an emphatic negative, and he takes occasion to praise what he calls their "steadiness," which many are inclined to interpret as dullness. The author is one who has been trained to see far more than the average person can or does see of the environment in which he may be placed. He is alert both to see, to hear, and to form judgments. There is an excellent chapter on "Sport," as there is an illuminating one on "An English Country Town."

E. L. STEVENSON.

The Lombard Communes. A History of the Republics of Northern Italy.

By W. F. Butler. 495 pp., Illustrations, Maps, and Index. Imported by Charles Scribner's Sons, 1906. \$3.75.

It is not an easy task to find one's way through the period of Italian history here under consideration. There were great general movements in those centuries which one can well and truly call peninsular or Italian, but there was so much of local coloring, so much that was strikingly individual in the social and political life of the many city-states, especially of central and northern Italy, that very clear and logical thinking and planning is essential for the one who successfully tells the story of the period. Professor Butler has done his work remarkably well. He has read his Muratori, Lanzani, Ferrari and others with care, though not always agreeing with the conclusions of the last two named. To the theory by these advanced,—a theory very generally accepted,—that the internal feuds of the Italian cities of the period were the results of an antagonism between the civic nobility, who had imbibed Roman ideas, and the country nobility, forced to come and live within the walls of the cities, Professor Butler